



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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New 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Data Released: First Updated Demographic Data Since 2000 for Thousands of Areas

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released new demographic and social data for every community in the United States, including for the first time all counties, municipalities, census tracts, and other geographies. The data is the first release of 5-Year Estimates from the 2005-2009 American Community Survey, an integral part of the Census Bureau's reengineered 2010 Census. This is the first detailed socio-economic data released for several counties, state legislative districts, municipalities and school districts since Census 2000. Data relating to income, poverty, education, commuting statistics, veterans, and employment are included in the survey, as well as many other topics.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a continuous survey that replaces the decennial census long form, and provides more timely and updated information about the nation's changing and diverse population every year. In Pennsylvania, five-year estimates for the period 2005-2009 were released for all of the state's congressional districts and state legislative districts, metropolitan statistical areas, Pennsylvania's 67 counties, 501 school districts, more than 2,500 municipalities and other geographies.

Educational Attainment in Pennsylvania Counties

According to the 2005-2009 ACS, Chester (46.9 percent) and Montgomery (43.7 percent) Counties had the largest percentage of the population 25 or older attaining a bachelor's degree or higher. Fulton County (9.1 percent) had the lowest percentage of the population with a four-year degree or higher, followed by Juniata County, which had 9.7 percent achieve a bachelor's degree or higher.

More than 20 percent of the population 25 or older in Juniata (21.1 percent) and Philadelphia (20.9 percent) Counties lacked a high school diploma in 2005-2009. Montgomery and Centre Counties (7.8 percent) had the smallest proportion of residents lacking a high school education.

Persons in Poverty

The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. For the period 2005-2009, Philadelphia County had the largest proportion of its population in poverty, with nearly a quarter (24.2 percent) of its residents in poverty in the preceding 12 months (see Table 1). Fayette County followed, with 18.8 percent of its population in poverty. Bucks County had the lowest percentage of its population living below the federal poverty level (4.9 percent).

Median Household Income

Chester County had the highest median household income (\$83,759), followed by Montgomery (\$75,728) and Bucks (\$74,111) Counties. Cumberland County (\$60,400) had the highest median household income outside of the Southeastern Pennsylvania. Fayette County had the lowest median household income (\$34,018), followed by Forest (\$34,110) and Mifflin (\$36,369) Counties.

Other Selected Data, 2005-2009

- Schuylkill County had the largest proportion of housing units built prior to 1950, at 58.3 percent. Pike County had the smallest proportion, at 13.1 percent. Chester County had the largest proportion of housing units built in 2000 or later, at 13.7 percent.
- Potter County had the highest percentage of the population that are veterans (15.6 percent).
- Philadelphia County had the largest percentage of foreign-born persons (11.0 percent), followed by Monroe County (8.9 percent). Mifflin County had the largest proportion of native-born residents, at 99.5 percent
- Pike County had the largest homeownership rate (84.4 percent), while Philadelphia County (56.8 percent) had the lowest.

ACS Data for Pennsylvania Municipalities

The release of the 2005-2009 ACS provides the first demographic, social, economic, and housing data for most of Pennsylvania's municipalities since Census 2000. Data users are able to create profiles of their communities, make comparisons between municipalities, construct custom tables and maps, and rank small-area geographies.

More about the Five-Year Estimates from the ACS

The ACS is part of the reengineered decennial census, and is the premier source of annual small-area estimates available on a wide range of important social and economic characteristics for all communities in the country. Together, data collected by the ACS and the 2010 Census help federal officials determine where to distribute more than \$400 billion each year. Responses to the survey, like the decennial census, are strictly confidential and protected by law.

The 2005-2009 ACS data includes estimates on more than 40 demographic, social, economic, and housing topics, such as race, Hispanic origin, foreign-born population, language spoken at home, marital status, median household income, occupation, and housing costs.

This data is the first ACS five-year estimates, and was released for all geographies in Pennsylvania, including the geographies that were included in three-year and one-year releases. The estimates aggregate the sample responses from Pennsylvania households collected from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2009. They represent an average estimate of the characteristics of that population over the entire time period. They are different from, and should not be directly compared to the ACS one-year estimates or the ACS three-year estimates, released previously, which relate to specific time periods only. Five-year estimates will be released annually for all geographies, continuing/resuming with next year's release of the 2006-2010 ACS.

The 2005-2009 ACS estimates are based on an annual, nationwide household sample of about 250,000 addresses per month, or 2.5 percent of the population per year. As is the case with all surveys, statistics from sample surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. Margins of error have been omitted for clarity, but are available on factfinder.census.gov.

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**Table 1. Percent of Persons with Income Below the Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months:
Pennsylvania Counties, 2005-2009**

Rank	County	Total Population For Whom Poverty Status is Determined	Income in the Past 12 Months Below Poverty Level	Percent with Income Below Poverty Level
-	Pennsylvania	12,081,192	1,462,191	12.1%
1	Philadelphia County	1,484,052	358,527	24.2%
2	Fayette County	139,390	26,217	18.8%
3	Centre County	124,915	23,055	18.5%
4	Indiana County	82,532	15,100	18.3%
5	Greene County	36,520	6,262	17.1%
6	Venango County	53,544	8,666	16.2%
7	Potter County	16,893	2,597	15.4%
8	Sullivan County	5,899	901	15.3%
9	Tioga County	39,362	5,937	15.1%
10	Erie County	266,623	40,165	15.1%
11	Bradford County	60,211	8,974	14.9%
12	Clearfield County	77,402	11,435	14.8%
13	Crawford County	85,339	12,430	14.6%
14	Northumberland County	87,715	12,615	14.4%
15	McKean County	41,519	5,940	14.3%
16	Cambria County	137,147	19,496	14.2%
17	Clarion County	37,325	5,304	14.2%
18	Bedford County	49,078	6,963	14.2%
19	Lycoming County	112,166	15,478	13.8%
20	Mifflin County	45,372	6,175	13.6%
21	Forest County	4,490	605	13.5%
22	Lackawanna County	200,644	26,877	13.4%
23	Susquehanna County	39,987	5,355	13.4%
24	Jefferson County	44,611	5,932	13.3%
25	Clinton County	34,153	4,537	13.3%
26	Blair County	122,054	16,097	13.2%
27	Fulton County	14,727	1,929	13.1%
28	Columbia County	60,333	7,780	12.9%
29	Luzerne County	301,676	38,742	12.8%
30	Union County	36,098	4,577	12.7%
31	Allegheny County	1,189,045	149,823	12.6%
32	Somerset County	73,785	9,234	12.5%
33	Cameron County	5,208	651	12.5%
34	Warren County	39,327	4,898	12.5%
35	Mercer County	109,275	13,423	12.3%
36	Lawrence County	88,479	10,644	12.0%
37	Schuylkill County	139,554	16,758	12.0%
38	Berks County	387,200	45,733	11.8%
39	Wayne County	47,931	5,558	11.6%

Rank	County	Total Population For Whom Poverty Status is Determined	Income in the Past 12 Months Below Poverty Level	Percent with Income Below Poverty Level
40	Armstrong County	67,520	7,803	11.6%
41	Snyder County	35,730	4,104	11.5%
42	Dauphin County	251,808	28,662	11.4%
43	Lehigh County	328,536	36,176	11.0%
44	Huntingdon County	40,433	4,410	10.9%
45	Wyoming County	27,009	2,929	10.8%
46	Beaver County	169,432	17,909	10.6%
47	Montour County	17,514	1,850	10.6%
48	Washington County	200,478	20,781	10.4%
49	Elk County	32,063	3,227	10.1%
50	Westmoreland County	353,443	34,713	9.8%
51	Carbon County	61,933	5,891	9.5%
52	Delaware County	533,346	50,181	9.4%
53	Monroe County	159,726	14,911	9.3%
54	Pike County	57,606	5,226	9.1%
55	Perry County	44,139	3,994	9.0%
56	Lancaster County	482,834	43,346	9.0%
57	Juniata County	22,910	2,010	8.8%
58	York County	410,995	34,438	8.4%
59	Butler County	178,085	14,870	8.3%
60	Lebanon County	123,453	9,940	8.1%
61	Franklin County	137,346	10,835	7.9%
62	Northampton County	280,198	21,894	7.8%
63	Adams County	96,408	6,792	7.0%
64	Cumberland County	212,552	13,616	6.4%
65	Chester County	472,699	29,286	6.2%
66	Montgomery County	752,279	41,321	5.5%
67	Bucks County	609,136	29,686	4.9%

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's expert in demographics and Census datasets. To request custom American Community Survey data tables or maps, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.772.2710.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005- 2009 American Community Survey.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.